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With a better understanding of the With a better understanding of the transient nature of the many physical ills which vanish before proper efforts—gentle efforts—pleasant efforts—fightly directed. There is comfort in the knowledge that so many forms of ickness are not due to any actual disease, but simply to a constipated condition of the system, which the pleasant is mily laxative, Syrup of Figs, prompty removes. That is why it is the only medy with millions of families, and is everywhere esteemed so highly by all who value good health. Its beneficial effects are due to the fact, that it is the one remedy which promotes internal cleanfiness, without debilitating the organs on which it acts. It is therefore all important, in order to get its beneficial effects, to note when you purchase, that you have the genuine article, which is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only, and sold by all reputable druggists.

If in the enjoyment of good health, utable druggists.

If in the enjoyment of good health, and the system is regular, then laxa-tives or other remedies are not needed. tives or other remedies are not needed. If afflicted with any actual disease, one may be commended to the most skillful physicians, but if in need of a laxative, then one should have the best, and with the well-informed everywhere, Syrup of Figs stands highest and is most largely used and gives most general satisfaction.

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He died as he lived, alone; And his trembling fingers, damp and cold, Drew the iron band away From the guarded casket, stained and old, Where his hoarded treasures lay.

But his death-dimmed eyes in the fading light
Looked not on the rubles rare,
Nor the deep-sea pearls, nor the diamonds
bright
bright

That an empress well might wear: And the gold that he erstwhile loved so

much,
That be periled his soul to gain,
Was brushed gside with a careless touch,
And a glance of cold disdain. And when strangers looked on the dead in

And when strength awe,
awe,
In his close-clasped icy hands
Not Golconda's flashing gems they saw,
Nor the gold of Afric's sands;
And no jewels fair beyond compare
'Tween the fingers stiff shone through,
But a golden tress of a woman's hair
In a ribbon of faded blue.

—Chambers' Journal.

#### SELLING A MINE.

BY MRS. J. GLADWYN JERR

Don Manuel Escordo had recently ome into possesion of a small silver mine, and, according to the immemorial custom of mine owners, he was ex-

Don Manuel began preliminaries by preparing an expert, and this gentleman prepared a report. A few disagreeable people expressed entire dis-belief in both; but, as Don Manuel had found occasion to observe before, this is a skeptical age. As a matter of fact, Le held a low opinion of that sagacity upon which the world, and especially the commercial world, so prided itself. There was that exploded idea, for instance, about there being always large numbers of widows and orphans scattered about the globe, simply waiting to be taken in, and fraudulently entreated by any astute person who chose to take the trouble. For his part, although he had often gone to great exertion in attempting to turn an honest penny at their expense, Don Manuel had invariably found that the average widow held fixed and inconvenient ideas ar to interest, while an orphan had once nearly succeeded in overreaching Don Manuel himself.

Although he sought diligently for a purchaser for his latest acquisition, during several months he sought in vain. So unpromising seemed his quest that he felt on the verge of despair; when, at the last moment, a beneficent I rovidence threw an Englishman across his path. Not an elderly, case-hardened Englishman, either, but a nice, fresh, beardless youth, apparently but just out of leading-strings. Moreover, as shough to prove that he had been sent especially on Don Manuel's behalf, he

had plenty of money. The lad's name was Frank Jerningham-a cognomen so completely beyond the capacity of the ordinary Mexican tongue that its owner came to be known simply as "El Amigo de Don Manuel." The latter gentleman was charmed by the bestowal of this title, as it seemed to give him a sort of pre-scriptive right in his young friend, beides serving to warn off any other dventurer who might be casting covtous eyes upon his prize. Don Manuel and in enlarging upon the fortune to be derived from it. The report, which he exhibited with pride, set forth that the mine contained free-milling ore of a high grade, and that in order to work tom. it with satisfaction and profit, a very small capital, with but a trifling amount or labor, were all that would be rejuired. In fact, after perusing this ocument, it seemed impossible to feel my other emotion than wonder that Don Manuel could bring himself to part with so promising a property. There was, however, one trifling omission, which, had it been known, might have aftered somewhat the con-plexion of affairs. This circumstance was that for many years the mine had been full of water, and that it was extremely loubtful whether, even by the aid of

the costlest pumps, the flooding could be altogether remedied. But this depressing fact being carefully withheld from the Amigo, he cheerfully sold out several thousand pounds' worth of consols, in order to put the money so obtained into this very desirable investment. In extenuation of his action, it should be explained that he had but recently come of age, and was auxious to prove to his late trustices that he was fit to be trusted with the management of his own affairs. Also, he had been brought up by a maiden aunt in that policy of thinking no evil, which usually results in its votaries suffering from a good

The wonder was how he ever got so far as Mexico without being fleeced. His native shrewdness may have protected him to some extent, but when Don Manuel got hold of him, matters put on a different aspect. When he was first let into the secret of the existence of the mine, he regarded it as a mark of confidence and esteem, surprising from a comparative stranger. Don Manuel fostered this view by declaring that he had already several good offers, on the ground that the people making them did not intend working the ore themselves, and he would along in the direction of the mine; and not fend his countenance to a mere speculation.

and paid half the purchase money in interesting spot, they saw that, with advance. Refore completing the purthe exception of a stray Indian stand-chase, however, he was to accompany ing idly near the windlass, there was Don Manuel on a visit of inspection.

The mine being situated at some distance from the city, they arranged to though struck by a sudden idea, "I ride there one day, spend the night at should much like to have a lump of that the village maison, and return the next day. This plan was carried out, and down a few feet and knock a bit off.
on their arrival they were met by a man
in Don Manuel's employ, who conif we did not go far, there would be no

was already provided with a cage, so there was no obstacle to going down at once. The new owner gazed at the surface with delight, while his companion held a waispered consultation with the man. Then the two seated themselves

in the cage, preparatory to being lowered. They were let down very slowly. in order, as Don Manuel explained, that his young friend might examine the walls at his leisure, thus assuring himself of the richness of the quartz.

The Amigo, being extremely ignorant of the whole subject, did his best to look wise. It may be imagined, however, that there was little intention of allowing the youthful purchaser to co very far, and, accordingly, at a precon-certed secret signal, the cage began unmistakably to ascend again. The Englishman exclaimed with surprise, and Don Manuel gave vent to impatient ejaculations concerning the stupidity

"What is the meaning of this?" he demanded, with seeming anger, when they reached the top. The man in charge of the windlass, with many excuses, said that he had just discovered a flaw in the chain, and did not think it safe for the senors to descend further until this had been repaired. Therefore, he had drawn them up as quickly as possible.

The Amigo was enchanted with what he had already seen, and went off to the maison in a contented frame of mind. The lad was too excited to sleep, and lay tossing upon his comfortable bed until day break, when he arose and

He felt that he could not tear himself away from his newly-acquired property without seeing it once more, if only from the outside, so he went quietly out of the house, and directed his steps towards the mine. It did not take him long to reach it, and he gradually became possessed by an overwhelming desire to go down again. He was a light-weight, and if he chose to risk the faulty chain, the chances were that nothing serious would happen. Crossing over to where an Indian was regarding him curiously from the door of a solitary hut near by, he contrived, in guide-book Spanish, to make known s wishes.

He explained the reason of yesterday's interrupted descent, and asked the man if he could not secure the chain with rope, and then lower him into the mine. The Indian indulged in a broad grin before replying.

"The chain is all right," he said, slowly. "We of the village, we know why it is not permitted that the senor deseend. If the senor gives me pesetas, then I will tell him things of much The Amigo hesitated, while value." a sort of chill passed over his youthful enthususm.

"I'il tell you what," he said, after a moment's pause; "don't say any more, but lower me into the mine, and let me find out for myself what is wrong. Then, if I see that you have spoken truly, you shall have money."
"Good," replied the man; "it is as

the senor pieases. But it is desirable that he look about him with care, and give the signal to be drawn up with much speed.'

The two walked over to the mouth of the mine, where the Amigo stepped into the cage, while his new acquaintance went to the windlass and began lowering him. The lad had taken the precaution of borrowing a candle, and lost no time in bringing the merits by its aid he recognized all the land-of his maine to the notice of his Amigo, marks that they had passed the previous day. He gazed at the glistening walls with curiosity, and then the fancy seized him to glarce below in order to see how far he still was from the bot-

As he looked, he recoiled in horror, for beneath him rose a perfect sea of black water, stagnant and dull. It almest touched the cage, which he now noticed had stopped, and it filled the

This, then, was the reason of yesterday's frustrated journey, and he had been cheated grossly. He was no finansial genius, after all, but only a raw youth who had come very near being flushed angrily in the semi-darkness as he signated to be drawn up.

Don Manuel had behaved shamefully. but he would get even somehow. And by the time that he reached terra firma, the outlines of a plan of revenge were shaping themselves in his brain.

The Indian came forward with a smile. "Did the senor see enough?" he asked.

"Plenty," replied the youth, lucon-

leally. "Look here." he continued, presently. "I may want you to do something for me in an hour or two. Will you wait about here until I return? If you do as I tell you without saying anything, I'll pay you well. See, here is a handful of pesetas to go on with, and you shall have more afterwards."

"The senor is a caballero of degree," said the man, gravely, "and I will serve him with devotion.'

"Then stay here," replied the Amigo; and when I come back, don't take any notice of me unless I speak to you."

He found Don Manuel just on the point of sitting down to breakfast, and he joined him in the meal, doing his best to appear at ease, and giving no hint of the manner in which he had spent the last hour.

When they had finished, he suggested that while the horses were being saddled, he and Don Manuel should stroll the latter, nothing loth to increase the infatuation of his young friend, willing-The Amigo blushed with pleasure ly consented. As they drew near that

no one in sight. quartz to take away with me. Let's go

duct d them at once to the mine. It danger of the rope breaking. Do come!

Now, Don Manuel had hoped that id! risk of discovery was over, and he did not at all enjoy the notion of running deliberately into danger again. Still, he felt obliged to give a reluctant consent. "But I won't go any distance," he declared, firmly; "it would be extremely dangerous!'

"It would, indeed!" responded the Amigo, dryly.

"We had better send for my nan to let us down," suggested Don Manuel, when he had yielded the point.

"Oh, it is not worth while for such a few feet," said the Amigo; "that Indian over there will do just as well."

"But he will not know how far to send us," objected Don Manuel. "Show him yourself, then," returned the lad. "You can tell how far it is safe

to go." Somewhat soothed by this concession. Don Manuel gave the necessary instructions. This done, he stepped back to the cage, and, with true Mexican politeness, motioned to his companion to be seated. But not to be outdone in courtesy, the latter insisted upon giving the older man precedence, and after much hesitation Don Manuel seated himself. Scarcely had he done so, when the Indian, in obedience to a rapid gesture from his patron of the morning. swung the cage off, and began to lower it with its sole occupant.

"Stop! stop!" shouted Don Manuel, excitedly. "My Amigo is coming with me!"

"No, he is not," replied that young gentleman, calmly. "You seem to be unacquainted with some important details in the character of your mine," he went on, "and I am going to give you an opportunity of finding them out. 1 have already done so, and do not, therefore, intend to descend again. I hope that you will have a pleasant expedition. Good-by!"

"Let me out!" screamed Don Manuel, as the cage began to sink. "I won't go down! I shall be drowned! Murderers! Murderers!"

As his head disappeared from view and his voice grew fainter, the lad went over to the man at the windlass. "Lower him quickly," he said, "so that when he touches water we shall hear the splash. Then pull him up as fast as you can, but don't bring him quite to the top."

The Indian nodded, proceeding to obey his instructions to the letter. As the eage went deeper, Don Manuel's agonized entreaties died away in the distance, until at last a wild yell and a noise of water showed that he had gone far enough. He was then drawn back to within a foot of the mouth of the mine, where he hung helplessly in space, a drenched and shivering object.

"You see I was right," said the Amigo; 'you had omitted to acquaint yourself with important particulars. Now. I know that you still have my check for half the purchase money in your pocket, because you told me so yesterday. So I will give you your choice. You may hand it to me at once, or you may still further increase your store of information regarding that mine by exploring it again."

"The money belongs to me," exclaimed Don Manuel, angrily "How dare you attempt to rob me in this way? Still, as the property appears to be less valuable than I thought, I will let you off paving the half that you still owe me. That ought to content

'Perhaps. But it doesn't," replied the Amigo, quietly. "Lower him again," he added, to the Indian. "Wretch! brigand! I'll give you the

check! Pull me up! Oh, que desgracia!" yelled Don Manuel, as he began to descend.

But his persecutors paid no attention to these appeals. Once more was heard that significant splash, and once more was Don Manuel drawn to the surface, looking even more like a drowned rat than before.

With his wet hands he tried to dash the water out of his eyes; then, without a word, he commenced fumbling in his pockets. After several efforts outwitted by a Mexican sharper. He he succeeded in crawing out a damp pocketbook and, diving hastily into its recesses, he produced a piece of paper which he reluctantly held out to his tormentor.

"Take it!' he said, with a mellifluous. though forcible, Spanish oath, "and let me out of this place!"

The Amige stooped down cautiously to possess himself of the check, then stood up to examine it carefully. Having assured himself that it was indeed his own, he tore it into minute fragments and threw the pieces down the mine. "There, that's done with," he said; "and now you can come out. I

hope that you have not taken a chilt!"

Disdaining to notice this civility, Don Manuel stepped on to the ground, and was beginning to walk sulkily away. when a new thought appeared to strike him. "Look here." he inquired, "are you ar. orphan?"

"Yes." replied his late Amigo, with surprise. "Why do you ask?"

"I might have known it," grouned Don Manuel. "No other class of human being has ever got the Letter of me. Before I enter upon another business negotiation, I'll have a medical certificate to say that the man's relatives are all alive!"-From "Some Unconventional People."

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